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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1974

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

DDI-64-74

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Dear Bill:

As you know, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea began with an organizational session last month. The first substantive session will be held in Caracas, Venezuela from June 20-August 29 with a subsequent session, if necessary, to be held no later than 1975.

The Law of the Sea Conference is one of the most important multilateral negotiations in which the United States has participated. At stake is an agreed regime for the oceans which will delimit national and international rights in navigation, living and non-living resources, protection of the marine environment and many other issues. It is important that we have continuing up-to-date information about the positions of key countries and that we prepare as thoroughly as possible. For this reason, I have requested John Norton Moore, the Chairman of the NSC Interagency Task Force on the Law of the Sea to form a new Working Group of the Task Force to develop and maintain information about the positions of the key countries in the negotiations and other information helpful to the negotiating effort. I would greatly appreciate it if the CIA, which has already been a most helpful participant in the work of the Task Force, would participate in the new Working Group. More specifically, it would help the new Working Group as it begins its work if the CIA could undertake the following projects for the Working Group:

(1) Completion of country analyses for all countries in the negotiations. These analyses would include information concerning the positions of the country on all major issues in the negotiations as well as its principal national interests in the negotiations;

The Honorable
William E. Colby,
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D.C.

State Dept. review completed

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(2) Participation in the Task Force Working Group consideration of voting estimates for key issues;



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(4) Preparation of several "mini-atlases", on issues designated by the Working Group; and,

(5) Such additional studies as may, from time to time, be suggested by the new Working Group of the Task Force.

We have greatly appreciated your assistance to the Task Force and look forward to continuing close cooperation as the substantive session of the Conference approaches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'KR' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth Rush
Chairman

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